



GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal: The Road to the White House

Teacher Notes

The flexible, standards-based GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal is easy to use and can be adapted to meet the needs of students in grades three through twelve. To meet specific age, grade and time constraints, the teacher may select the issues, parties and candidates for class consideration or may allow students to make decisions concerning the scope of the election journal entries.

Suggestions

- **Personal Copies.** When possible, we suggest that each student download a GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal and prepare a personal election journal.
 - Students can store their election journal on a flash drive. Each student can then complete assignments, edit, and print her/his election journal at home or school.
 - If a school network is available, each student can store their election journal in their network folder. Students can access their folder and election journal from networked computers in classrooms, the school library and school computer labs.
- **Progression of Topics.** The opening page of the election journal lists topics in order of suggested coverage. Following these topics in the order in which they are listed allows students to progress from basic information gathering to more advanced analysis and reflection.
- **Basic Literacy Strategies.** The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal incorporates a variety of basic literacy strategies including vocabulary self-awareness cards, reading and summarizing information, and chart analysis. Additionally, we suggest teachers provide class time for peer discussions and reflective writing.
- **Research.** The election journal is an information storage and analysis tool. To avoid the appearance of partisanship, the election journal does not contain information about or links to specific issues, candidates or parties. There are numerous Web sites which provide unbiased coverage of issues and events. Additionally, each political party maintains Web pages which provide significant information about their platform and history. We suggest that teachers preview Web sites and primary and secondary classroom resources before beginning this project. Students should have access to a variety of research materials.
- **Graded Assignments.** The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal provides teachers with opportunities to assess and evaluate student progress and participation. Individual

reports and charts and reflection journal extracts may be printed and submitted as class assignments.

- **Cross-Curricular Projects.** For continuity of election coverage, teachers can initiate a project which extends across grades. Students can begin following the 2008 elections in their current class/grade by entering information about parties and candidates and charting the results of state primaries and caucuses. In August of 2008, as students advance to the next class/grade, they can consider the results of the national nominating conventions, examine the presidential debates and track the final election results from the general election in November of 2008 through the casting of the electoral votes in December of 2008.
- **Reflection Journal.** Reflection is an important part of the learning process. Our reflection journal can be used in a number of ways to provide opportunities for students to record their thoughts and questions. We suggest that the teacher use a combination of specific topics for graded assignments mixed with opportunities for free-writing.
- **Technology Skills.** The GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal addresses basic technology standards. The electronic format helps students understand the operation and purpose of database collections and provides an opportunity for students to gain real-life skills.
- **Cast Your Vote!** Use the GeauxVote Election 2008 Journal to help students make informed choices about the candidates and issues. Provide an opportunity for students to cast their vote in the November 2008 elections. We suggest holding a classroom or school-wide election. You may also wish to participate in one of the many student-oriented mock election programs such as Kids Voting USA, Y-Vote Mock Election, or the National Student Parent Mock Election. Look for more information about these programs on the Internet.

For additional information, please contact Memory Seymour, Louisiana's Old State Capitol Director of Education, at 225-342-0500 or via e-mail at education@sos.louisiana.gov.

Related Hyperlinks

- [State and National Social Studies Benchmarks and GLEs](#)
- [Campaigns and Elections Student Interactive](#)
- [Media and Propaganda Slideshow](#)
- [Voting Rights Timeline](#)
- [Campaigns and Elections Lesson Plan](#)

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